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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0391  
INFO RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0781  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9407  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3067  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3216  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6384

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000684

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PRM/MCE MAURA NICHOLSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/30/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [SMIG](#) [AORC](#) [IT](#)  
SUBJECT: IOM DG RACE: ITALY HAS NO BACKUP PLAN SHOULD ITS  
OWN CANDIDATE FAIL

REF: STATE 54562

Classified By: A/DepPolCouns Stephen Anderson, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Migration and Asylum Office Director Marco Maticotta May 29. Maticotta said the new center-right Italian government continues to support the candidacy of Italian Luca Riccardi for Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), despite his nomination by the previous government. Riccardi has been traveling extensively in an effort to introduce himself to IOM member state governments in advance of the June election. Maticotta said the MFA had not yet considered how it might vote in the event that Riccardi withdraws or is eliminated in an early round. Poloff urged Maticotta to consider throwing Italy's support behind Ambassador William Swing if Riccardi's candidacy was unsuccessful. Maticotta said the MFA would take our position into consideration in formulating its voting strategy but made no commitment.  
SPOGLI